

The Concord Society



October 6, 1683

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Nationals in the Early Days of American
Colonization.

The Period from 1564 to 1682 inclusive

By

Otto Lohr

Montclair, N. J.

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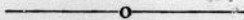
The Concord Society



THE CONCORD SOCIETY, founded for the purpose of investigation and dissemination of the facts concerning the part played by Americans of German ancestry, intends to lay before the public the fruits of the research of eminent German American scholars. These bulletins will give brief outlines of the activities of German Americans during certain important periods in the history of our national development.

THE CONCORD SOCIETY has already published Mr. Frederick Franklin Schrader's well known book "1683-1920" and from time to time other works in form of monographs, setting forth more in detail the early achievements of the German American element, will follow.

The next Bulletin will cover such subjects on the share of the German element in the revolutionary movement, making possible the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, etc. The real facts concerning these important details have never been properly presented in their true value and historical importance to the American public and are continually overlooked or slightly touched in the historical works, in school books and periodicals.



These Bulletins can be obtained from THE CONCORD SOCIETY. Order them early for libraries, schools, societies, clubs, churches and the press. Price: 100 copies, \$2.00; 1000 copies, \$15.00.

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A Brief Historical Review of the Achievements of German Nationals in the Early Days of American Colonization

By
OTTO LOHR



Coincident with the knowledge of the prominent part that must be attributed to the early German element in the upbuilding of this country, German Americans are realizing more and more that, owing to erroneous interpretation of their history, they did not get their just share and have been placed in an inferior rank as to importance. Therefore, German Americans should, without delay and once for all, insist upon equal historical rating with their Anglo-Celtic and Dutch-Walloon-Huguenot fellow citizens, and every effort should be made to have Americans of German extraction recognized for their important relationship which they bear to the problems of the making of America.

This lack of proper recognition and accuracy, current in most historical works and other publications such as school books, etc., is used as evidence in public speeches and in the newspapers and magazines, but the indisputable facts, set forth herein, will easily prove the justice of their claim. The worst of all is that our own historical works are frequently based on fallacious statements that are assumed to be correct. For example:

The assertion is made that German immigration did not begin until 75 years after the settlement of Virginia, or 60 years after the arrival of the Pilgrims in New England. In confirmation of this statement the settlement of Germantown, Pa., in 1683, is taken as proof conclusive. That, however, is not the case, for it is well known that at the time of the settlement of Virginia a German founded the Province of New Netherland for the Dutch, while another German was responsible for the opening of what was then known as New Sweden, which included Delaware and Pennsylvania. Germans were known on the Hudson and Delaware Bays as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century; that they were in the employment of Hollanders and Swedes is readily understood when it is remembered how Germany was at the time practically crippled by the Thirty Years' War and unable to take any active interest in the colonization of foreign countries. The bad conditions in the home country explain again the numerous

German immigrants under alien flags and why the work of these Germans went to the credit of other nations.

The first Lutheran community was established in New Amsterdam shortly after the Peace of Westphalia, and was therefore the earliest German organization in America.

It is also important to note that the campaign of Schrick against intolerance on the part of existing religious orders was one of the first waged in this country; nor should we forget the efforts of Kuyter, VonDincklage and Herrman, in the Parliament at New Amsterdam, as defenders of religious independence for New Netherland, evincing courage and great desire for liberty versus intolerance and religious bigotry. Thus we see three great movements fostered by Germans,—pioneering, the expanding of the Old World civilization and the perpetuation of the true American spirit, the right of self-government and religious tolerance.

German immigrants arrived as early as 1630 in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Virginia; after 1638 a continuous flow of German emigration came to New Netherland. It is fair to assume that at least one-fifth and possibly one-fourth of the inhabitants prior to 1664 were of German origin. For example: New Harlem (New York) in 1661 had 14 Dutch Germans, 11 Frenchmen, 4 Walloons and 3 Swedes. Prior to 1683 there were as many as 20 German settlers, mostly Low Germans from Westphalia, the Rhineland and Holstein; also 2 Swiss, 1 Swabian, 1 Viennese, 1 Transylvanian Saxon and 1 German from Poland.

Settlers of German descent were also present in Bohemia Manor, Md., where as in New Amsterdam and New Sweden *the language of the courts was mostly German*. Noteworthy among spiritual leaders was Augustin Herrman, in Maryland, as well as the Rev. Fabricius whose congregation on the Delaware consisted chiefly of Low-German peasants.

It was these German farmers on the banks of the Hudson and Delaware rivers, as well as the tradesmen of New Amsterdam, who were sought by the Amsterdam capitalists as additional material for colonization, as it was on the strength of their ambitions and home-building traditions that the wealth of this community was made possible. We should not forget men like Beekman, Breese, Bristed, VanBuskirk, Ditmars, Dykman, Hardenbergh, Hoffman, Low, VanNostrand, Remsen, Schoonmaker, Schureman, TenBroeck, VanVleck, Zabriskie. In addition, the middle class of the free imperial Hanseatic cities was represented by wholesalers, exporters and estate owners, such as Hardenbroeck, Meyer, Ebbing, Schrick and Leisler.

The membership of the early colonies was greatly augmented by Germans from all walks of life, as for instance: Medical science—Hacke, Kierstede, Lederer and Koch; Judiciary—Dincklage and Ebbing; Clergy—Arens, Fabricius, Polhemus, and the teacher of Latin, Curtius, a Baltic German.

German libraries existed before the time of Pastorius, not only in the Hudson territory and Long Island but also on the shores of Chesapeake Bay.

As it would be futile to give a detailed list of German names, only a few of the men of action in the early days of American settlement are given; and in this connection explorers and discoverers such as Huehne in the territory of California and the Pacific Ocean, Leader's advance in the Valley of Virginia, Herrmann's contribution to territorial history, the ship doctor Spoeri, the Labadists, and others, should not be overlooked.

Regarding the political ability and achievement of results during the early period of the settlement of this country, it must be admitted that the German element was more in evidence in the seventeenth than in the eighteenth century. Men of prominence in political life, prior to the Revolution, are quite frequent. We might mention the following: Governors Minuit, Elswich, Ridder, Leisler; Lt. Governors Dincklage, Jacquet, Beekman; also officials such as Lupold, Kuyter, Opdyck; and in the legal profession, Andriesen and Koch.

As pioneers in the commercial life we may mention: Christiansen in the fur trade; Minuit in the culture of tobacco; Kuyter as importer of livestock. We should not forget that the original English colony of Virginia went to Germany to obtain the service of millwrights, wine producers, glassblowers and mining experts. The emigration from Germany for the sake of religious liberty was quite pronounced, Germans having joined the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. These included Huguenots and Waldensians from Mannheim and Frankenthal, while others like the Labadists went to New Harlem and New Paltz. Emigrants of German origin, unlike those of other nationalities, did not go to foreign lands to acquire territory but purely for the purpose of building up new homes for themselves and their descendants.

Since citizens of Anglo-Celtic, Dutch and Walloon-Huguenot ancestry are now preparing to celebrate the 300th anniversary of their immigration into this land, it is only proper for descendants of German origin to emphasize the fact that they too have been represented in this country for an equal length of time, and even longer.

Scholars since the time of Bancroft, and in our day among others Dr. Channing of Harvard University, have stated that German citizens have not received justice commensurate with their

deeds in the historical works dealing with the colonization and development of America. Yet it is essential that all citizens should receive due credit, if the true history of the country is to be brought before the people in its dramatic entirety. In a resumé of the major items of importance concerning German immigration, the following data—chronologically arranged—should be given a prominent place in the historical records of the country's development:

1564 Germans in the Huguenot colony at Fort Carolina, Fla.; among them Capt. Ritter von Erlach, a Swiss.

1583 The Saxon Mining Expert Daniel accompanied Gilbert in his exploration of New Foundland.

1590-1634 DeBry published in Frankfurt his illustrated work on travels on the American Continent.

1598-1610 Hulsius published his "Schiffahrten" in competition with DeBry.

1601-02 Huehne's exploration of the California Coast.

1608 German glassblowers in Virginia.

1610 Christiansen, from Cleve, on the Hudson.

1611 Swiss Mining Experts in Virginia. Huehne died at Nuremberg.

1616 German Jesuits in Spanish America.

1619 John With's History of Virginia Customs, published in Oppenheim. ("Contrafacturen und beigefügte Beschreibungen der Virginianischen Gebräuche.")

1620 Millwrights from Hamburg in Virginia.

1623 Willem Usselinx starts propaganda in Germany for American colonization.

At this time Holland, originally like Switzerland, were part of the German Empire, and the Westphalian peace treaty in 1648 at the end of the Thirty Years' war definitely detached both countries from the German Empire, at the same time the French first obtained a portion of Alsace-Lorraine.

1626 Minuit, from Wesel, Governor of New Netherlands.

1628 Usselinx in Reval and Emden.

1630 German Sectarians in New England; also German farmers on the big manors, such as Rensselaerswyck in New York and Pavonia in New Jersey.

1631 Usselinx in Stettin.

1632 German surveyor returns to Germany from New England. ("They were loath to part with him")—quotation of John Winthrop, Governor.

1633 Augustine Herrman, from Prague, in North America.
Adam Rolantsen from Hamelwaerden, first schoolmaster in
New Amsterdam. *John Schley 1st Schoolmaster in N.J. Co. ind. 1632*

"Argonautica Gustaviana," collection of propaganda pamphlets,
by W. Usselinx, published in Frankfort.

1633 Hector Mithobius, Wurtembergian theologian, before
the assembly of German princes, proposes the colonization of
America for the Swedes, in the name of Oxenstjerna.

1634 Chancellor Loeffler, of Wurtemberg, (Swedish Vice
Chancellor) in the South German Diet, in Frankfurt recommends
Swedish settlement of America.

Lubbert von Dincklage, schout-fiscal of New Netherland.

1635 Usselinx in Emden, Bremen, Hamburg and Lubeck.

1636 Ulrich Lupold of Stade, successor of Dincklage.

1638 Minuit settles New Sweden.

Dr. Kierstede, from Magdeburg, in New Amsterdam.

Opdyck, from Wesel, Dutch Commander in Connecticut.

Usselinx in Hamburg and Stade.

1639 Joachim Kuyter, from Dithmarschen, in New Amsterdam.

1640 Dutch authorities give subjects of Count Solms free
access to New Netherland.

Peter Ridder, Governor of New Sweden.

1641 The Swiss, Claes Switz, murdered by Indians at New
Amsterdam.

1644 German settlers of New Netherland receive re-inforce-
ments from Dutch Brazil.

1646 Dincklage, Lt. Governor of New Netherland.

1647 Kuyter banished by Stuyvesant.

1648 Lutheran congregation of New Amsterdam sends a de-
legation to the Amsterdam Consistory, with the request for a pastor.

1651 Dr. Hacke, from Cologne, settles in Virginia.

Paul Schrick, from Nuremberg, in New Netherland.

1653 Augustine Herrman on diplomatic mission to Boston.

1654 Heinrich von Elswich, from Luebeck, Commissary to
New Sweden.

Polhemus, pastor of Reformed Church, from West-
phalia, sent from Brazil to New Netherland.

1655 New Sweden acquired by the Dutch.

T. Jacquet, Lt. Governor of Delaware.

J. J. Becher, planned the purchase of New Netherland for Bavaria.

1657 Johannes Gutwasser, first German pastor in New Amsterdam.

1659 Pastor Gutwasser sent back to Europe by Stuyvesant.

1660 Leisler in New Amsterdam.

The Swiss ship surgeon Spoeri in New England.

1661 Huehne's Chart of the Gulf of California, published at Acapulco, Mexico.

1662 Augustine Herrman in Bohemia Manor, Md.

1663 Fabian on the Coast of Carolina.

1664 Hilton-Fabian's "Relation" published at London.

1666 The Herrman family naturalized in Maryland.

1667 Huehne's charts reprinted at Lisbon.

1669/70 Lederer's exploring tours in Virginia.

1670 Huehne's charts reprinted at Seville.

1671 Pastor Bernard Arens at New York.

Fabricius goes to the Delaware.

Germans remove from New York to Carolina.

Lawrence Andriesen from Holstein, member of New Jersey Provincial Council.

1672 Otto Keyen's "Kurzer Entwurf von Neu Niederland" published at Leipzig.

Lederer's "Discoveries" published in London.

1673 Dapper-Montanus's "Die unbekannte Neue Welt", published at Amsterdam.

1676 Nicholas Meyer from Hamburg, Mayor of New York.
Dr. Otto Ernst Koch, from Holstein, justice at Upland-Chester, Pa.

1677 Penn in Germany.

1677 Spoeri's "Bericht über New England", published in Zürich.

1679-80 Labadists travel in the colonies.

1681 The German Jesuit Eusebius Kuehn in Mexico.

Penn's "Account of the Province of Pennsylvania" translated into German.

Dr. O. E. Koch, member of Provincial Council of Pennsylvania.

1682 Frankfort Emigration Society.

L. Andriesen, member of Provincial Council of New Jersey.

J. J. Becher died in London.

